

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 265868

FOL RPT STATE 265868 SENT ACTION TO ALL NATO CAPITALS,
USNATO INFO STOCKHOLM, CINCLANT, USCINCEUR, USLOSACLANT &
USNMR SHAPE DTD 05 NOV 77

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 265868

HOLD FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, MNUC

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZATION AND QTE NEUTRON BOMB
UNQTE

1. A UPI RELEASE CARRIED IN THE NOVEMBER 4, WASHINGTON
POST IS QUOTED IN PART AS FOLLOWS: QTE CONGRESS YESTERDAY
GAVE PRESIDENT CARTER AUTHORIZATION TO GO AHEAD WITH
DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEUTRON BOMB AND THE CRUISE MISSILE.
THE 2.6 BILLION DOLLARS AUTHORIZATION BILL FOR MILITARY
APPLICATIONS OF THE ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
ADMINISTRATION -- NOW PART OF THE NEW ENERGY DEPARTMENT --
INCLUDES FUNDS FOR THE NEUTRON BOMB, WHICH KILLS THROUGH
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INTENSE RADIATION BUT INFLICTS LESS STRUCTURAL DAMAGE
THAN CURRENT NUCLEAR WEAPONS. CARTER ASKED CONGRESS TO
APPROVE FUNDS FOR THE BOMB PENDING A DECISION ON PRODUCTION

AND DEPLOYMENT. THE LEGISLATION ADDED 12.6 MILLION DOLLARS
TO FUNDS ALREADY APPROPRIATED FOR THE BOMB IN FISCAL 1978,
BRINGING THE TOTAL AUTHORIZATION TO 22.6 MILLION DOLLARS.

UNQTE.

2. AT POST DISCRETION, EMBASSIES IN COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN NATO NUCLEAR PLANNING GROUP SHOULD PROVIDE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES FOLLOWING INFORMATION AND REFER TO

AGREED MINUTE OF THE BARI NPG MINISTERIAL IN WHICH MINISTERS QTE AGREED TO KEEP ONE ANOTHER INFORMED AT A HIGH POLITICAL LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THEIR COUNTRIES AS REGARDS THESE WEAPONS. UNQTE. OTHERS MAY DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH TO RESPOND TO ANY QUESTIONS WHICH MAY ARISE.

3. THE RECENT CONGRESSIONAL ACTION PASSING THE SUPPLEMENTAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL AND A MILITARY ENERGY AUTHORIZATION MEASURE DOES NOT RPT NOT CONSTITUTE ANY NEW US DECISION ON QUESTION OF RB/ER WEAPONS. RECENT PRESS ARTICLES SUGGEST OTHERWISE. THIS LEGISLATION PROVIDES THE FUNDING REQUESTED BY THE PRESIDENT, FOR AMONG OTHER THINGS, RB/ER WEAPON DEVELOPMENT. THE PRESIDENT MUST STILL COMPLY WITH THE BYRD AMENDMENT BY NOTIFYING CONGRESS OF HIS DECISION TO PRODUCE RB/ER WEAPONS AND ALSO ALLOW CONGRESS 45 DAYS TO VETO SUCH A DECISION BY JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE. THE DECISION FOR PRODUCTION AND DEPLOYMENT OF RB/ER WEAPONS STILL AWAITS PRESIDENTIAL DECISION.
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CHRISTOPHER UNQUOTE VANCE

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